CHAPTER ON FOLLOWING THE SUNNAH, THE PIOUS PREDECESSORS, AND REJECTING BID=AH.

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) reproaches a group who changed the method of dhikr.

Abu Nu=aim (R. A) reports in Hilya (Vol.4 Pg.381) from Abil Bakhtari (R. A), who says, ASomeone informed Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) about a group of people who used to sit in the Masjid after Maghrib. A person from amongst them tells the others, >Recite Allahu Akbar in such and such a manner. Recite Subhaanallah in such and such a manner. Recite Al Hamdulillaah in such and such a manner.= Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) asked, >Do they then do as he says?= >Yes, replied the person.= Thereupon, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) told him, >Inform me when you see them gathering again.@

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) then came to this group, wearing his high hat, and sat with them. When he heard what they were saying, he stood up (he was a stern man). He said, AI am Abdullaah bin Mas'ood. By Allaah, besides Whom there is none worthy of worship! **Verily you people have certainly perpetrated a bid=ah most unjustly!@** The narrator says that Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) may have added the words, **AAre you people superior than the companions of Muhammad (sallallahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) in knowledge?@**

Ma >dad said, ABy Allaah! We never intended to perpetrate a bid=ah unjustly, nor are we superior than the companions of Muhammad (sallallahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) in knowledge.@ Amr bin Utba said, AWe seek forgiveness from Allaah.@

Thereupon Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) told them, AIt is compulsory for you to follow the path. Strictly adhere thereto. By Allah! If you will do so, you will have advanced far ahead. Verily, if you start going left and right, you will stray far off.@

The narration of Tabraani records, AThe news reached Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) that a group of people were sitting in the Masjid between Maghrib and IshaY@ The rest of the narration is like the one above. The only difference is in the following words:

AHadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) said to them, **AYou people have certainly perpetrated a bid=ah most unjustly, otherwise we, the companions of Muhammad (sallallahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), must have strayed.@** Amr bin Utba bin Farqad said, AWe seek forgiveness from Allaah, Oh Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A), and we repent to Him.@

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) then ordered them to disperse.

Abul Bakhtari (R. A) also says in the narration of Tabraani, AHadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) saw two groups in the Masjid of Kufa. He stood between the two and asked, >Which of you two was before the other?= When the one group said that they were first, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) ordered the other group to join them, thereby combining the two into one.
An authentic abridged narration of Tabraani states that Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) approached them covering his face. He said, AWhoever recognises me will have recognised me. As for those who do not recognise me, I am Abdullaah bin Mas'ood. Are you people more rightly guided than the companions of Muhammad (sallallahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)?@ The narrator says that Hadhrat Abdullah bin Mas=ood (R.A) also may have added, **AYou people are definitely clinging to the tail of deviation.@**
Tabraani has also reported the narration in his Kabeer from Amr Ibn Salma (A.R). he says that they were sitting at the door of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A)=s home between Maghrib and Isha, when Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari (R.A) came to the house saying, ACome with me, Oh Abu Abdur Rahmaan [Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A)].@ When Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) came out from the house, he asked, AOh Abu Moosa! What brings you here at this hour?@ Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari (R.A) replied, ABy Allaah! **The only thing that brings me here is something that I have seen, which has frightened me, yet it seems good.** There is a group sitting in the Masjid with a person telling them, >Recite Subhaanallah in such and such a manner. Recite Al Hamdulillaah in such and such a manner.@

Hadhrat Amr bin Salma (A.R) says that they accompanied Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (R.A) to the Masjid. When he arrived there, he told the people, **AYou have wandered astray so swifly, even while the companions of Muhammad (sallallahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) are still alive in your midst, his wives are still young, and his clothing and utensils have still not changed!(have not gone old)** Count your evil actions, for I stand surety onto Allaah that your good actions will be counted.@

THE STATEMENT OF HADHRAT ABDULLAAH BIN ZUBAIR (R.A) WHEN HIS SON SAT WITH A GROUP WHO BECAME ECSTATIC AS THEY ENGAGED IN DHIKR.

Abu Nu=aim (R.A) has reported the following narration in Hilya (Vol.3 Pg.167) from Hadhrat Aaamir (R.A.), the son of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubair (R.A). He narrates that he once came to his father, who asked him, AWhere have you been?@ The son replied, AI found a group of people. **I**

have not seen anyone better than them. They engage in dhikr and one of them trembles and grows ecstatic till he falls unconscious due to fear for Allah. I was sitting with them.@

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubair (R.A) instructed his son saying,A**Never sit with them again!@** When he detected that this did not make an impression on his son, he added, AI have seen Rasulullah (sallAllaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) recite the Qur'aan, and I have seen Hadhrat Abu Bakr (R.A) and Hadhrat Umar (R.A) also reciting the Qur'aan. Nothing like this ever happened to them. Do you think that these people fear Allaah more than Hadhrat Abu Bakr (R.A) and Hadhrat Umar (R.A)?@ The son, Hadhrat Aamir (R.A.) says, **AI realised that this was as he said, thus I left these people.@**

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